

of Col. Fred Vann Cherry, an Air Force fighter pilot who spent seven years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. Colonel Cherry passed away recently at the age of 87 while living in Maryland.

A native of Suffolk, Virginia, Colonel Cherry was born to farmers on March 24, 1928. He attended the racially segregated schools of the Jim Crow South and graduated in 1951 from Virginia Union University, a historically black college in Richmond. He then joined the Air Force.

Colonel Cherry was a Major who had served more than 100 combat missions in Korea and Vietnam when his bomber was hit by enemy fire in October 1965. He suffered significant injuries while ejecting and was captured immediately upon landing. He spent 702 days in solitary confinement and endured torture at the hands of our enemies. Colonel Cherry was the first and highest-ranking black officer to become a prisoner in Vietnam.

Colonel Cherry credited his survival to a fellow POW who, in turn, credited Colonel Cherry with his. The two wrote a book about their friendship and gave joint talks at military institutions and colleges. Colonel Cherry was also featured in a documentary narrated by Tom Hanks about Vietnam fighter pilots held as POWs.

Colonel Cherry later attended the National War College and the Defense Intelligence School in Washington. After more than 30 years of service, he retired from the Air Force in 1981 as a decorated joint staff officer assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency. He then started his own engineering company.

While too numerous to mention in their entirety, Colonel Cherry's awards and accolades include two Purple Hearts, the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and the Air Force Cross, which recognizes "extraordinary heroism," "personal fortitude" in the face of severe enemy harassment and torture and suffering critical injuries. A scholarship in his name is given annually by the Suffolk Foundation.

Colonel Cherry has remained a dedicated father to his five children, three of which also enlisted in our Armed Forces. He died as a grandfather to 14 and a great-grandfather to six.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of Colonel Cherry and that of his family. I humbly express my condolences to his family and wish them peace and comfort in the days ahead.

#### HONORING REVEREND FRANCIS CRANDALL IN CELEBRATION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

##### HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2016*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Reverend Francis Crandall in celebration of his reaching his 100th birthday.

As he reflects on the great memories and milestones that have highlighted the past hundred years, I know he will think fondly on all that he's accomplished and the positive impact he's had on his family and the communities he's served in New Hampshire. In addition to

his fine work in ministry, Reverend Crandall has been a staunch advocate for feeding homeless and needy children around the world, and created the International Concern for Children Foundation (ICCF) to help raise awareness and much needed funds for children at orphanages in thirteen countries.

Rev. Crandall's care for others and focus on helping those most in need has created a strong legacy that will not soon be forgotten. It is with great admiration that I congratulate him on achieving this wonderful milestone, and wish him the best in all future endeavors.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANN ARBOR CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

##### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living on their 40th anniversary. The accomplishment of this long-standing non-profit agency exemplifies the importance and strength of public-private partnerships in our communities.

Founded in February of 1976, the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living has worked to improve the lives of those living with disabilities in our community. The group was launched to provide help for individuals with disabilities, by people with disabilities. It sought to move beyond the low expectations of people in the disabled community, and worked diligently to help them achieve full participation and access to opportunities that able-bodied people take for granted. At the time of its inception, it was just the fourth Center for Independent Living in the country, and the first in the State of Michigan. The Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living provides the most basic life needs to people: housing, transportation, and access to resources. Their work has now expanded to positively impact the lives of over 4,000 people in Southeast Michigan each year.

The center offers individualized counseling, advocacy efforts, skill-building classes, recreation, arts programming, and other tools that build a sense of community and belonging for all. For 40 years, the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living has held itself to the highest standards of excellence to ensure that our residents continue to have a place to turn for support in good times and in bad times.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living on their 40th Anniversary and to wish them many more years of continued success.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PAISANO

##### HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2016*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of The

Paisano, the independent student newspaper at the University of San Antonio (UTSA). For three and a half decades, dedicated, talented students have run every aspect of the paper's publication. From reporting, to editing, to managing the paper's budget, it's the driven young people at UTSA who have made The Paisano's success over the years possible.

Each week, 7,000 copies of The Paisano circulate on campus, expanding students' horizons, challenging their thinking, and enriching campus life. Thanks to the Paisano, learning at UTSA doesn't end when students leave the classroom.

A vibrant, free press plays a vital role in American society, and The Paisano fosters a welcoming community where the next generation of journalists can cut their teeth and hone their craft. Enthusiasm and a desire to learn are the only prerequisites for joining the paper's staff. Even for alumni of The Paisano's team who pursue careers in fields other than journalism, the lessons in leadership, teamwork, and entrepreneurship learned during their time with the paper serve them well.

I applaud the members of The Paisano's staff, past and present. Their legacy lives on at UTSA, and will continue to do so for years to come as future classes take up the torch—and pen—at The Paisano.

#### HONORING KEITH BRYAR JR. OF LACONIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOLLOWING HIS PASSING ON FEBRUARY 20, 2016

##### HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2016*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my sincerest condolences and sympathy to the family of Keith Bryar of Moultonborough, New Hampshire.

Mr. Bryar was an active member of the Lakes Region community where he was born and raised. After spending time in Alaska to gain experience in the construction industry, he returned to New Hampshire to start his own business, Bryar Enterprises, which he owned and operated for thirty years. During this time he was an active member of the community and became known for his professionalism and strong work ethic.

Keith's other passion in life, following his great love for his family, was his involvement in racing sled dogs, a tradition he carried on from his parents. His love of sled dogs and racing them pushed him to compete across the U.S. and Canada, earning him many titles along the way and the respect of many involved in the sport.

New Hampshire and the Lakes Region lost a true friend, and we will forever be grateful for his hard work and commitment to the community he held so dear.

#### HONORING JACK PLUCKHAHN

##### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2016*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Frederick John Pluckhahn.